

mity of the whole operation. Big time golf requires big time commitment and lots of money and hard work. I marveled at the enormous expense and long hours of planning that go into hosting an event of such grandeur. From preparing the course to locating TV equipment to food handling to transportation, the volunteer staff should be congratulated on a very fine effort. Their hard work not only made the tournament possible but assured its success. I also marveled at the wealth that present day golf demands and acquires. Large corporate tents for personnel and clients, brand new cars for golf professionals and VIP's, huge trailers filling up huge parking lots, all added to the circus atmosphere permeating the entire event. Golf is certainly enjoying an enormous boom and we are fortunate to be involved in such a lively, interesting, upbeat field.

Another thing struck home as the tournament progressed. Play at Kemper Lakes was frequently delayed by thunderstorms during tournament week and some players threatened to walk off the course as lightening bolts danced around the area. Others ignored the lightening danger, leaving themselves in the hands of fate. One bolt came so close as to knock out a power transformer across the street from the course Saturday evening closing down the entire operation. In fact, within the span of 5 days, 15 people were struck by lightening in the Chicago area causing at least one death. Apparently no one learned from the Lee Trevino/Bobby Nichols incident 15 years ago when both were struck by lightening at another Chicago area course during the Western Open.

How often do we tempt fate on our own golf courses? Is it really worth it to get one more fairway cut or to finish that last hole of golf? Don't you have a responsibility to yourself, your employees, and your golfers to treat approaching thunder storms with respect? Golf courses are among the worst places to be during thunderstorms. Maybe you should review your policies and make sure your employees and your golfers are aware of the risk that accompanies threatening weather. I'm sure 15 people in the Chicago area now treat thunderstorms with the respect they deserve. It's one hell of a way to recharge your batteries!

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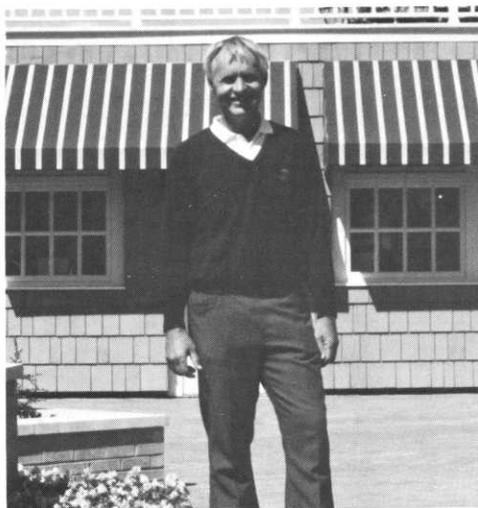
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EDINA PHOTOS



Host Superintendent Bill Johnson has had a very busy year sprucing up the grounds around the beautiful new clubhouse.



Cushman's sales staff showed off their new Core Processor and other equipment.



Dr. Joe Delly had his audience in a reflective mood.